

Lab Building a Release Strategy

Lab: Building a release strategy

In this exercise, you need to design a release strategy for a PartsUnlimited. Based on the concepts you learned, your assignment is to draw a picture or design a release pipeline in Azure DevOps where you think about the following things.

Choosing the rights artifact source

Which deployment stages do you choose

Release triggers and deployment triggers

Manual Approvals and/or release gates

Applicable deployment pattern(s)

Document your solution and arguments.

Scenario

PartsUnlimited wants to launch a new Greenfield website to their customers. They have a group of customers that is called "the inner circle." They have been customers for a long time and had a trust relationship with the management of PartsUnlimited. In close collaboration, these customers have been involved as a stakeholder in the development of the new website.

There are two development teams involved in this new website. There is a backend system, that is exposed by a REST API. Development team "Formula 1" develops this backend and uses Azure DevOps to store the sources and work items. An Angular Website consumes the REST API. This is developed by the "The Wheelies." "The Wheelies" use Jenkins as their build server and store their sources in Github.

A dedicated group of "customers" is already using the software as a very early adopter. The CEO wants to expand the user base to "the inner circle gradually", and when this all goes well, to the broader public. Because of architectural constraints, there still is downtime, when a new version of the backend is deployed. This will be solved in a later iteration. Customers only use the system during the day and should not be impacted by a system change. The "testers" and "inner circle" do not mind about the downtime, only the end-users.

The Product Owner, John, wants to approve the release of a new version until he trusts that everything deploys without errors. Tim, the system administrator wants to have a solution to the "maintenance" problem. He wants to be sure that no new releases are deployed when he is working on the system. He proposes a weekly planning session where a schedule is made, but he is open for an alternative solution.